

IN THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Figs. 14, 23(a), and 23(b). These sheets, which include Figs. 14, 23(a), and 23(b), replace the original sheets including Figs. 14, 23(a), and 23(b).

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 22-27 are pending in the present application, Claims 22-27 having been added, and Claims 1-21 having been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Support for new Claims 22-27 is found, for example, in Figs. 7-9, and their corresponding descriptions in the specification. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Figs. 23(a) and 23(b) were objected to; the drawings were objected to under 37 CFR §1.84(p)(5); the specification was objected to; Claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph; Claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over JP 2002-59149 (hereinafter “JP ‘149”) in view of Applicants’ Admitted Art (“AAA”); and Claims 1 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over JP 2002-37685 (hereinafter “JP ‘685”) in view of AAA.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesy of an interview extended to Applicants’ representative on April 9, 2007. During the interview, differences between the present invention and the applied art, and the rejections noted in the outstanding Office Action were discussed. No agreement was reached pending the Examiner’s further review when a response is filed.

With respect to the objection to the drawings, Figs. 23(a) and 23(b) are amended to include a legend of “Background Art.” Also, Fig. 14 is amended to show reference sign 100, which is described on page 40 of the specification. Applicants respectfully submit that the objection to the drawings is overcome.

With respect to the objection to the specification, the informality noted in the outstanding Office Action is corrected. In addition, the specification is amended to correct

another minor grammatical informality. Applicants respectfully submit that the objection to the specification is overcome.

Applicants respectfully submit that the outstanding grounds of rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, are moot in view of the cancellation of Claims 1-7.

Applicants respectfully submit that the outstanding grounds of rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) are moot in view of the cancellation of Claims 1-7.

Applicants respectfully submit that new Claim 22 patentably distinguishes over JP '149, JP '685, and the AAA, taken alone or in proper combination. New Claim 22 recites, *inter alia*,

obtaining information from a storage medium corresponding to the component, said information including a value of materials forming the component or costs associated with disposing of the component, and a standard scrapping cost per unit time;

determining a time required to remove the component from the electric appliance; and

determining an accumulated profit or loss based on the time to remove the component, the standard scrapping cost per unit time, and the value of materials forming the component or costs associated with disposing of the component.

JP '149, JP '685, and the AAA, taken alone or in proper combination, do not disclose or suggest these elements of new Claim 22.

JP '149 describes placing a bar code on a component, wherein a reading of the bar code by a bar code reader causes the retrieval of information including the ingredients of the component, and a recycling of the component is based on the retrieved information.¹ JP '149

¹ JP '149, paragraph [0059].

describes that a storage device stores information on the components, and that a terminal can display a part number, the ingredients, and a recycling approach.²

JP '149 does not disclose or suggest the claimed “obtaining information from a storage medium corresponding to the component, said information including a value of materials forming the component or costs associated with disposing of the component, and a standard scrapping cost per unit time; determining a time required to remove the component from the electric appliance; and determining an accumulated profit or loss based on the time to remove the component, the standard scrapping cost per unit time, and the value of materials forming the component or costs associated with disposing of the component.”

JP '685 describes a method for estimating a disassembling time of a recyclable product. To find an amount of time to disassemble a recyclable product with various recyclable components, the dismantling time of each component is measured beforehand. JP '685 describes estimating a total disassembly time based on the total time it takes to disassemble the components of the product.³

JP '685 does not disclose or suggest the claimed “obtaining information from a storage medium corresponding to the component, said information including a value of materials forming the component or costs associated with disposing of the component, and a standard scrapping cost per unit time; determining a time required to remove the component from the electric appliance; and determining an accumulated profit or loss based on the time to remove the component, the standard scrapping cost per unit time, and the value of materials forming the component or costs associated with disposing of the component.”

Furthermore, the AAA does not cure the above-noted deficiencies in JP '149 and JP '685.

² JP '149, paragraph [0062]-[0063].

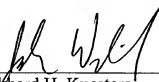
³ JP '685, paragraphs [0008]-[0014].

Thus, in view of the above-noted distinctions, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 22 (and Claims 22-27 dependent thereon) patentably distinguish over JP '149, JP '685, and AAA, taken alone or in proper combination.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Eckhard H. Kuesters
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 28,870

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)

Joseph Wrkich
Registration No. 53,796